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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PEACE
SOCIETY.

The annual business meeting of the American Peace Society was held in Pilgrim Hall, Congregational House, Boston, on the 31st of May, at 12 o'clock, noon, Robert Treat Paine, President, in the chair.

Prayer was offered by Dr. L. H. Angier. Rev. G. W. Stearns was chosen secretary, *pro tem*. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

President Paine who had been appointed assistant treasurer, on account of the resignation of the treasurer, submitted the treasurer's annual statement (published in full below), which was approved and ordered to be filed.

D. C. Heath, auditor, presented his report which showed that the accounts of the treasurer had been correctly kept. Ordered to be filed.

The Annual Report of the Directors to the Society was then read and accepted, and the secretary instructed to print such portions of it as in his judgment might be suitable. (The Report is given below.)

On behalf of a committee appointed by the Directors to propose changes, if necessary, in the Constitution of the Society, Hon. W. E. Sheldon proposed the following which were severally approved:

First, that the words, "and every donor of five dollars," be stricken out of Article IV.; second, that the words, "and fifty dollars a Life Director," be stricken from Article V.; third, that Article VIII, be stricken out and the following substituted in its place: "The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Auditor, and a Board of Directors, consisting of not less than twenty members of the Society, including the President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be *ex officio* members of the Board.

"All officers shall hold their offices until their successors are appointed and the Board of Directors shall have power to fill vacancies in any office of the Society.

"There shall be an Executive Committee of seven, consisting of the President, Secretary and five Directors to be chosen by the Board, which Committee shall, subject to the Board of Directors, have the entire control of the executive and financial affairs of the Society.

"Meetings of the Board of Directors or of the Executive Committee may be called by the President, Secretary or two members of such body.

"The Society or the Board of Directors may invite persons of well-known legal ability to act as honorary counsel."

The same committee reported a list of names of persons for the several offices of the Society. The report was accepted and the persons named elected by ballot to the respective offices. (For the revised constitution in full, and the names of the officers, see pages 82 and 103.)

After a brief discussion of the treaty provisions regarding neutrality of the great lakes, and of the subject of governmental coöperation with this Society's cause at the Columbian Exposition in 1893, the meeting adjourned.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1891-92.

RECEIPTS.

Publications, Donations, etc.	\$751.57
Interest on U. P. Bonds	30.00
Interest on Halsey Note	25.00
Permanent Peace Fund	4,279.33
Balance from last year	2,350.45
Legacies from Estate of Amanda Parlin	1,000.00
On acct. of legacy from Stephen H. Halsey, Exr.	250.00
	\$8,686.35

EXPENDITURES.

Salaries of Secretary and Office Agent	\$2,578.97
Expenses to Rome Congress	549.85
Publications and Printing, J. E. Farwell & Co.	1,018.59

Travelling and Incidentals	\$222.51
Care of Office, Translating and Typewriting, etc.	140.54
Postage, Telegrams, Stationery	105.29
Peace Publications purchased	23.15
Rent of Office and Heating	446.89
Rockwell & Churchill, Printing	52.00
Gen. O. O. Howard, Funeral Expenses of R. B. Howard	1,400.00
Contribution to Congress at Rome	100.00
Paid F. M. Patten, credited by him in last year's account	62.50
\$1,000 Union Pacific 6 per cent. 3 year Note	978.75
Cash on hand, to balance	1,007.31
	\$8,686.35

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Mr. President and Members of the American Peace Society:

The Directors of your Society beg leave to submit herewith their annual report for the year 1891-92.

An event which may properly receive mention at the beginning of this report is the entrance into office of our new President, Hon. Robert Treat Paine. On his return from Europe he was welcomed at a meeting in Pilgrim Hall, Sept. 28th. Dr. A. A. Miner, being in the chair, uttered words of formal introduction, to which President Paine responded in a brief address, in which he referred to the increasing attention with which the old world is looking to America for actual leadership in great movements. He cited, as a noteworthy step, the negotiations already opened by act of Congress, looking to arbitration treaties with all civilized countries, and he emphasized the superb prospects before us. All observers of the world of philanthropic work may well be impressed anew with the matchless possibilities of our share, as Americans, in the great cause which we love.

No acquisitions, however, can make us forget our losses. The honored dead yet speak in our memories.

Secretary Howard, of whom more extended notices are given in the *ADVOCATE*, died in 1892, Jan. 25th, in Rome, Italy, after a lingering and painful illness.

He was your chief representative at the World's Peace Congress, and had the honor of dying in the service of this Society, and the cause for which it stands. To our eyes he seems to have fallen in the midst of his usefulness.

Rev. John W. Olmstead, D.D., whose death occurred in August, 1891, was for many years one of our Directors. He represented the advanced peace sentiment of the Baptist denomination, and uttered the same, both in the pulpit and in the columns of the *Watchman*, of which he was for many years senior editor.

Thomas Lamborn died in Kansas, Jan. 6, 1892. He was a hearty sympathizer with our cause and one of our most faithful agents.

MEETINGS.

Since our report of last year there have been held two notable gatherings, both related to the cause for which our Society exists.

THE WORLD'S METHODIST CONFERENCE

Met last October in Washington. This great Christian meeting did not fail to utter clearly its championship of the cause of Peace and international arbitration. One of the speakers was President Benjamin Harrison.

THE ROMAN CONGRESS.

The third meeting of the World's Peace Congress was held in the Capitol Hall, in Rome, Italy, beginning Nov. 11th; for the remaining five days the Congress met in the Exhibition Palace in the *Via Nazionale*. About two hundred delegates were present, though nominally there were three hundred delegates, representing seventeen nations and eighty-eight societies.

Your Society was represented by the late Secretary, R. B. Howard, who was chosen one of the vice-presidents of the Congress, and took an active part in the proceedings of the assembly. Other delegates from the American Peace Society, present and participating, were Hon. W. W. Story of Rome, formerly of Boston; Rev. Stephen L. Beiler, D.D., and Mrs. S. L. Beiler, of Brooklyn, N.Y., and W. A. Duncan, of Boston, Mass. The Universal Peace Union, of Philadelphia, was represented by Mrs. Mary T. Ormsby of New York.

The discussions were often spirited and opinions sharply differed, it appears. Some embarrassment was doubtless attributable to the variety of languages spoken. The labor question, the Irish question, and other questions political, social, economic and religious were proposed, but the conservative spirit prevailed in the deliberations of the Congress, with varying wisdom. On the whole, the agitation of mooted questions seems to have been wholesome. The absence of any Roman Catholic element occasioned remark. It is fitting here to acknowledge the courteous and hospitable treatment gratefully received from the Italian government.

AMICABLE ADJUSTMENT OF CONTROVERSIES.

The Chilean matter is too recent to need extended reference here. President Montt's government, embarrassed as it has been by the civil war in Chile, not to mention the passions dominant in local politics, has seemed to act in a way hazardous to the continued peace of this nation.

This Society sought to use its opportunity for influencing, as far as possible, public opinion in the matter, by distribution of special documents and otherwise, and a happy issue has been reached. A sharp distinction has been manifest in the utterances of the periodical press, calling for special blame in some cases and special praise in others.

The relations of the United States to England have continued amicable, though grave issues have been in doubt. We count ourselves fallen upon hopeful days when neither codfish nor seals can furnish a *casus belli* between us and our mother country.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Our office work has continued with steadiness. The Executive Committee have held meetings both frequent and well attended, including several special meetings. An unusually large meeting of the Directors elected our new Secretary, Rev. Benjamin F. Trueblood, LL.D., of whose fitness and qualifications for the position notice will be found in the June *ADVOCATE*.

THE PRESS.

Our usual methods of seeking to influence the public mind of old and young have been continued in the regular issues of the *ADVOCATE* and the *Angel of Peace*. We have printed and circulated somewhat widely Mr. Josiah Quincy's Oration, on the "Coming Peace;" Mrs. E. S. P. Ward's letter on the "Possible War with Chile," and "War Unnecessary" by Augustine Jones, and "Wm. Ladd, the Apostle of Peace," by John Hemmenway. We congratulate your Society in that it has some able coadjutors among the editors of the daily journals.

CORRESPONDENCE

Has been maintained with reference to both domestic and foreign affairs; especially in regard to Italian and Chilean matters. Some of this correspondence has been conducted by President Paine, personally.

THE OUTLOOK.

Clouds and darkness and forebodings greet the observer of the old world. Dynamite is enlisted in wicked hands. Italy is bankrupt, but too proud to quit the Triple Alliance. The present Republic of France has endured far longer than both of the former republics, but she has foes within and without. Russia is cursed with famine, and from far away America food is sent by the shipload. Yet an expensive ball is given meantime by the Russian legation, in Washington. In Spain, men have been found diabolically plotting the murder of the infant king. Only God Almighty can prevent the tension of European affairs from resulting in the horrors of war. We confidently look to Him therefore, while we work as opportunity offers for the triumph of his Gospel. England and America alone, of all the great powers, are in financial health and are continually decreasing their debts. What China may do, is a matter of serious concern, in view of the unrighteous Chinese Exclusion Bill, recently passed by our Government. Telegraphs and commercial bonds are not strong enough to hold nations together in the face of so gross violation of treaties.

We look to Berne with great hopes that the European mass may be much leavened through the labors of the approaching Congress. We look to Chicago, with absorbing interest in the possibilities of the next year, in the work of which we are planning to share.

And more than all, we look to God who holds the king's heart in his hand, as the rivers of water, and turneth it whithersoever He will, whether the kings be monarchs of the old world or the potentates of our own favored country where we are *all kings*.

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING.

The annual public meeting of the Society was held on Sunday evening, June 5th, in the First Baptist Church, Commonwealth avenue, Boston.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the pastor, Dr. Philip S. Moxom, with a responsive reading of Psalms cxxi. and cxxii., and with appropriate music.

The President of the Society, Hon. Robert Treat Paine, was then introduced and spoke as follows:

PROGRESS OF ARBITRATION AMONG NATIONS.

PEACE TRIBUNAL OF THE WORLD.

America rejoices to-day in such profound security, with the idea of war so remote from her conscious life, that a Peace Society seems almost a superfluous luxury.

Yet this happy boast is not uttered, before we recall on the instant the surprising and certainly discreditable fact that three times almost within a twelvemonth rumors of the possibility of war have grown out of excitement directed against three honorable and friendly nations. Fortunately all three causes of disagreement have been laid at rest, and we can contemplate with dispassionate impartiality those different occurrences.

Italy and Chile have been such hereditary friends of the United States that our accord has never been broken by war, and between England and America the ties growing out of common descent, language, civilization and sympathy are so deep, that war should never be regarded as a possible thing by right-minded citizens of either land. What shock to the civilization of our times could be more terrible than war with England growing out of the protection of seal fisheries in the remote Behring Sea?

Mr. T. Jefferson Coolidge, just appointed Minister to France, has publicly stated that, in his judgment, the treaty of arbitration between our country and Great Britain dealing with the Behring Sea dispute is a more important application of the principle of arbitration than that which settled the Alabama claims some twenty years ago, yet in the judgment of the world the Alabama Arbitration is the grandest object lesson up to the present time, which the world has seen of serious disputes, which might have led to open war, settled by honorable arbitration; and the award approved by the sound judgment of the jurists of the world.